

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A layered structure comprising:
 - a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer consisting of ~~at least one of a titanium based coating of at least one of~~ Ti, ~~[[Cr,]]~~ TiC, TiN, and TiCN, ~~CrN or Cr₃C₂~~;
 - a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
 - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.
2. **(Currently Amended)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said first intermediate layer consists of titanium ~~and/or chromium~~.
3. **(Previously Presented)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said structure further comprises at least a layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition on top of said diamond-like carbon layer.
4. **(Previously Presented)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said first intermediate layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1 μm .
5. **(Previously Presented)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said second intermediate layer has a thickness of 0.01 to 5 μm .
6. **(Previously Presented)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said diamond-like carbon layer has a thickness between 0.1 and 10 μm .

7. **(Previously Presented)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said nanocomposite composition comprises in proportion to the sum of C, Si, and O in at % 40 to 90 % C, 5 to 40 % Si, and 5 to 25 % O.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said second intermediate layer comprises a metal doped diamond-like nanocomposite composition.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said diamond-like carbon layer is doped with a metal.

10. **(Previously Presented)** An article of manufacture, comprising:
a substrate covered at least partially with a layered structure according to claim 1.

11. **(Cancelled).**

12. **(Previously Presented)** A method to cover a substrate with a layered structure, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a substrate;
- applying a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- applying a second intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
- applying a diamond-like carbon layer to obtain a layered structure according to claim 1.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A layered structure comprising:

- a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer consisting essentially of at least one of a titanium based coating of at least one of Ti, [Cr,] TiC, TiN, and TiCN, ~~CrN or Cr₃C₂~~;

- a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
 - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.

14. – 15. **(Cancelled).**

16. **(New)** A layered structure comprising:

- a first intermediate layer consisting of a titanium based coating;
- a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
 - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.

17. **(New)** A layered structure according to claim 16, wherein said layered structure is configured for use in a high impact and/or high shear application.